



DOC NewsLine

Volume 1, Issue 11

August 2004

“Good Things are Happening at DOC”

Institutions/DOC Give Generously to G.R.A.C.E. Camp

Employees and inmates answered the call from Mrs. Antoine with some sizeable donations to G.R.A.C.E. camp. There are four G.R.A.C.E. (God's Really Awesome Camping Experience) camp locations throughout Louisiana, the purpose of which is to intervene in the lives of an offender's child/children to help them realize that they have a choice in life and that they do not have to follow the negative patterns they are often exposed to growing up.

Here's a breakdown of donations:

LCIW

\$500 Inmate Toastmasters
\$700 Employee Activity and Recreation
\$500 Inmate Jaycees
\$1000 Lifers
\$500 Inmate Culinary Arts Org.

LSP

\$300 Camp D Social Club
\$50 RC ARC

JLDCC

\$100 Inmate Human Rights Club
\$100 Inmate Brotherhood Club

OYD

\$55 (\$21 of which was earned by student worker Marilyn McMorris selling Little Debbie Cakes to staff)

WNC and ALC

These institutions donated several hundred dollars in requested toiletries, arts and crafts, games and other camp items.

Headquarters

Staff collected requested items and money to purchase camp supplies.

The non-denominational G.R.A.C.E. camps are spearheaded by the United Methodists Churches of Louisiana. Thanks to all who participated. Look for a formal recognition of the Department's contributions at the next Warden's Meeting.

The Buzzword is Re-entry

Since our last newsletter, many people have come together to launch the Department's latest Re-entry initiative. In June and July, Headquarters and Probation and Parole staffs throughout the state pulled together 7 regional meetings held in major cities across Louisiana. The purpose was to gather public and private entities together and talk about some of the obstacles releasing offenders

face and how to overcome those obstacles. Governor Kathleen Blanco is stressing the need for state agencies to work together on common issues and Re-entry is one of those.

The meetings were held in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Alexandria, Lake Charles, Monroe and Shreveport. P & P staffs left no stone unturned in search of state agencies, faith-based groups, non-profits and others who could provide assistance. Secretary Stalder gave participants much to think about in his comments about how to reduce Louisiana's high incarceration and recidivism rates. The meetings were a success on all levels and will hopefully show what can be done by effective communication, multi-agency interaction and community outreach and coordination.



Secretary Richard L. Stalder addresses a Re-Entry Focus Group meeting in Baton Rouge.

Each district office in the identified communities is working on follow-up meetings with participants and will soon come together with the Re-entry Council to focus on positive action and solutions. Everyone involved realizes that we have tremendous opportunities to positively affect the lives of people who truly need it.

New ASCA President

Secretary Richard L. Stalder officially took over as President of the Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) on August 1st in Chicago. He previously served a two-year term as ASCA's Vice-President.

This high-profile national role will serve the Department well as Secretary Stalder can shine a light on Louisiana's accomplishments in addition to bringing to the state new and better ways of protecting the public and helping offenders.

"As ASCA's President, I look forward to showcasing the work that is being done in Louisiana's justice system under Governor Blanco's leadership," said Stalder (in a recent press release). "I will also be diligent in searching for best practices in other states and territories so that we may continue to improve the quality of correctional services."

Bill Carville Training Facility Dedicated

Submitted by Warden James LeBlanc, DCI

Staff from the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, wardens from prisons across the state, employees of Dixon Correctional Institute (DCI), family members of the late William Kenneth "Bill" Carville, and friends formally dedicated the Bill Carville Training Facility at DCI in June.

DPS&C Deputy Secretary Jannitta Antoine read the proclamation enacted during the 2004 Legislative Session. DCI Warden James M. LeBlanc, a friend of Bill Carville and Bill's brother James, unveiled the large engraved dedication plaque.

Bill Carville began his career with LA DPS&C Agri-Business in 1980. Agri-Business later became Prison Enterprises. He served

there as an Administrative Assistant. Carville moved into the Corrections' Classification Department and then to Probation and Parole.

In 2003, he suffered a heart attack while at a family reunion in Virginia. At the time of his death, Carville served as a Job Development Specialist. Carville successfully established post-release employment placement for offenders participating in Project Metamorphosis and the Serious Violent Offender Re-entry Initiative Grant (SVORI). He also volunteered to assist inmates who were not grant participants because they requested and needed his help.

The biggest challenge Bill Carville faced was to locate prospective employers who would even consider hiring an ex-offender. Carville conducted business and industry visits to discuss offender training and successfully connected pre-release participants with appropriate business opportunities. He provided follow-up after-care services as part of post-release. Bill Carville went above and beyond the call of duty to assist the inmates with a smooth transition from prison to a crime-free life as productive citizens of their communities.

"Bill Carville will be remembered as dedicating his career to the LA Department of Public Safety and Corrections," according to Warden LeBlanc. "More importantly, he dedicated his career to helping inmates succeed when they are released from this institution and return to their communities."

James, Bill Carville's older brother, attended the June 3, 2004 dedication with his wife Mary Matlin, Bill's widow Holly and nearly 50 members of the large Carville family. James Carville expressed his gratitude to the Department for allowing his brother's legacy to continue on at DCI with the dedication of the training facility. He also announced that a \$50,000 endowment had been established at Louisiana State University, Manship School of Mass Communication, in the name of Bill Carville.

The training facility, adjacent to the

pistol and rifle range, has a large, fully equipped employee weightlifting and cardio-fitness room, and an office that serves as the central command post in the event of natural or man-made emergencies as well as escapes. It also has a classroom that can accommodate 100 employees.



James Carville speaks about his brother's life and work at the June 3rd dedication of the Billy Carville Training Facility at DCI. DCI Warden Jimmy LeBlanc, pictured at left, also addressed those in attendance.

Hope House

Warden T.W. Thompson has been tapped to serve on the Hope House of Central Louisiana Board of Directors. For 15 years, Hope House has served as a shelter for homeless women and children. It also offers support through various programs including education, therapy and physical and mental wellness for children. Warden Thompson and JLDCC should be a tremendous help to the continued success of Hope House.

The Best in the Business

Captain Craig Laborde of Avoyelles Correctional Center was featured in *Corrections Today* magazine as an example of "The Best in the Business." He oversees the bicycle-refurbishing program (among others) at Avoyelles. Laborde and the program participants work with the Marksville Police Department and the Rotary Club to provide like-new bicycles to needy families during the Christmas season. He posts pictures of the bicycle recipients in the inmate work area so his staff can see the fruits of its labor. This is but one of countless positive examples of how our institutions are serving the community.

Apprehension

The AVC Chase Team caught a man with his pants down (or shall we say off)! The team was dispatched to assist with the apprehension of a man who had gained illegal entrance to a house. The subject was located a short time later, nude and extremely intoxicated. He offered no resistance.

Top Guns

Top guns Waymon Clark and Doug McClellan walked away winners in the Law Enforcement Shooting Competition in May. The Town Talk featured the duo in a short article. Clark is a probation and parole officer from the Natchitoches district while Clark hails from the Tallulah P & P office. Clark scored a first place finish in the pistol competition and McClellan was first in shotguns.

Second place in pistol went to Joe Norwood of LSP and third went to Larry Feazell of WCI. Matt Reed of LSP and Rory

Beall of WCI took second and third place respectively in the shotgun competitions. Congratulations to all.

A Word of Thanks

Warden Burl Cain's hospitality earned more than just a letter of thanks from Harriet Schoenebeck from the Green Bay (Wisconsin) Correctional Institution. Impressed by her visit to LSP, she spread the word in Wisconsin. Offenders there are in the process of preparing gift boxes filled with robes and teddy bears for Angola's hospitalized inmates.

Master Trainers

Congratulations to Warden Lensing, staff and inmates at Elayn Hunt Correctional Center for earning accreditation from the National Center for Construction Education (NCCER). EHCC has two "Master Trainers" certified by NCCER who will, in turn, certify various staff as NCCER Certified Trainers (i.e. plumbing foreman, electrical foreman, welding instructors, building technology instructor, etc.) Inmates can be placed on NCCER's national registry for the trade he has learned through experience at EHCC.

Captured

DWCC personnel and bloodhounds were credited in June with helping to capture four inmates who escaped from Bayou Dorcheat Correctional Center. The inmates were jailed for crimes ranging from molestation to murder. The escapees weren't gone very long from the comfy confines of prison life thanks to the DWCC team that responded.

Animal Shelter

WCI Warden James Miller is working with officials in Washington Parish to establish an animal shelter. Warden Miller says WCI inmates will help with construction and maintenance of the shelter to keep costs down for the parish. In turn, he says the shelter would be an excellent form of therapy for inmates, giving them a feeling of "self worth" while they care for the needy animals.

National Certification

Ten inmates from WCI have earned national certification by the Outdoor Power Equipment and Engine Association. The inmates were trained in diagnostic techniques and repair of all types of gasoline engines. This achievement puts Louisiana in the top 5% of students earning the certification while incarcerated.

Town Talk

The Town Talk credited a Probation and Parole Officer for uncovering a suspected, homegrown meth lab while checking on a parolee. However, the newspaper failed to identify our officer. Cole Gralapp of the Alexandria district spoiled his client's day upon making the discovery. The Grant Parish Sheriff's Office says all the components needed to manufacture meth, except for anhydrous ammonia, were found at the residence.

Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week was held July 18th- 24th. A number of our districts planned events but only the Natchitoches District sent information on its activities, so its staff gets the plug. They put together Public Service Announcements (PSA's) educating the public about Probation and Parole for radio, did radio interviews (plugging CORE, too!) and managed to get their local sheriffs and Clerk of Court to treat them to lunch. Not bad.

Don't Forget

Character Counts.

CITIZENSHIP

- Do your share to make your community better.
- Be cooperative.
- Stay informed. Vote.
- Be a good neighbor.
- Obey laws and rules.
- Respect authority.
- Protect the environment.

TRUSTWORTHINESS

- Tell the truth.
- Be straightforward, open and direct.
- Be sincere. Say what you mean.
- Be reliable, keep your word.
- Pay your debts.
- Return what you find or borrow.
- Make promises that you plan to keep.
- Be very careful with private information.

Supervision Week

Dean's List

Submitted by Kim Barnette, Adult Education Office

Four of Washington Correctional Institute students at River Parishes Community College made the Dean's List:

Ralph Williams
Dale Welch
James Hudson
Stephen Bowling

Washington Correctional Institute (WCI), recognized the following employees for Quarterly Awards:

WCI
Beverly Kelly – Support Employee
Captain Craig Kennedy – Supervisor

Employee Recognition

Elayn Hunt Correctional Center (EHCC), and Washington Correctional Institute (WCI) recognized the following employees for Monthly Awards:

EHCC
Wendy Molliere – Support Employee
Master Sergeant Warren Carlin – Security Officer
Captain Clyde Spain – Supervisor

EHCC
Dedra Scott – Support Employee
Master Sergeant Henry Holden – Security Officer
Lieutenant Mark Bush - Supervisor

WCI
Master Sergeant Michael Thomas – Security Officer

Farewell to Chaplain Fewell

Allen Correction Center is dreading the end of August because it will mark the beginning of retirement for Chaplain Tom Fewell, who has been with ALC for 13 years. During that time, he has organized an outstanding volunteer program and has authored several articles on religious programs in prison and the changing role of chaplains in prison settings.

Chaplain Fewell leaves big shoes to fill at Allen Correctional Center. DOC and staff at ALC wish him the best in his retirement.

LOL Blood Bank is Real Winner in DOC Competition

Submitted by Robert Krieg, Training Director

Headquarters may have won the traveling trophy, but complete strangers may have benefited the most from the Our Lady of the Lake blood drive. During the "In the Spirit of Giving and Sharing – The Life Blood of the Community" competitive blood drive, the La. Department of Corrections and the La. Office of Youth Development's greater Baton Rouge area facilities donated 212 units of blood.

The event was designed to provide a traveling trophy to the facility with the highest

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percentage of employee donations. Participating in the competition were the Louis Jetson Correctional Center for Youth, Dixon Correction Institute, Elayn Hunt Correction Center and the La. Department of Corrections, Corrections Services (Headquarters) which included Prison Enterprises.

Thanks to all who took time to give to their neighbors in need and congratulations to Headquarters for winning the traveling trophy. The official presentation ceremony will take place at Headquarters on August 11th.

team noted positive, professional staff/inmate relations and said that the "leadership of James Leslie and his administrative staff appears to have created a desire on the part of line staff to be one of the best correctional industries program in the nation."

Auditors found Prison Enterprises in 100 percent compliance with all mandatory and non-mandatory standards.

Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard to achieve such wonderful results. Your work is definitely paying off.

The Last Word

Accreditation News

Compliance is never guaranteed when it comes to the accreditation process, but the Department seems to have a knack for impressing auditors. Since our last newsletter, three facilities have been granted re-accreditation by the American Correctional Association and the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections.

First, a joint audit of David Wade Correctional Center and Forcht Wade Correctional Center in April found the facilities in 100 percent compliance with mandatory standards and 98.6 percent compliant of non-mandatory standards.

To borrow directly from the official audit report, "environmental conditions were found to be outstanding" and "sanitation in all areas was impressive." The audit team was also impressed with the K-9 area and commented that the security staff was "professionally dressed and knowledgeable of the accreditation process."

Not to be outdone by DWCC was Prison Enterprises, which had its audit in early May. Auditors noted that PE strives "to create work opportunities which result in the production of low cost incarceration." The

DOC NewsLine is your employee newsletter. Staff sent all of the content for this issue into the Communications Office. If you have an item for the newsletter, please email or fax the information to Communications Director Pam Laborde. The fax number is (225) 342-1361. We encourage you to send pictures along with your newsletter item.

Currently, we put together a newsletter every two months. If submissions increase, we will distribute one monthly. So get busy!